

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) In a distributed network having a number of server computers and associated client devices, method of creating and implementing an anti-computer virus agent, comprising:

correlating virus reports to determine whether there is a virus outbreak;

identifying a virus;

locating an associated anti-virus;

parsing a selected computer the virus into a detection module that identifies a selected one of the client devices as a target client device, an infection module that causes the virus to infect these the target client devices device not infected by the selected virus, and a viral code payload module that infects the targeted client device;

analyzing the infection module to determine the method of infection and the anti-viral payload module to determine the deleterious effects;

modifying the infection module to infect client devices these computers already infected by the selected virus; and

incorporating the anti-virus inoculation viral code into the payload module that acts to prevent further infection by the selected virus;

forming an anti-computer virus agent by combining the detection module, the modified infection module and the modified viral payload module;

locating client devices infected by the virus;

determining whether a cleaning tool for utilizing the anti-virus is present on the infected client device and if not, route all traffic to and from the infected client device to a cleaning tool server;

using the anti-virus in the viral code payload module of the anti-computer virus agent to overwrite the virus in client devices infected by the virus; and
inoculating uninfected client devices using the anti-computer virus agent.

2. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

incorporating repair viral code into the viral payload module that acts to repair any damage in the infected client device caused by the selected virus.

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) In a distributed network having a number of server computers and associated client devices, computer program product for creating an anti-computer virus agent, comprising:

computer code for parsing a selected computer virus into a detection module that identifies a selected one of the client devices as a target client device, an infection module that causes the virus to infect those target client devices not infected by the selected virus, and a viral code payload module that infects the targeted client device

computer code for modifying the infection module to infect those computers already infected by the selected virus;

computer code for incorporating inoculation viral code in the payload module that acts to prevent further infection by the selected virus; and

computer readable medium for storing the code.

5. Computer program product as recited in claim 4, further comprising:

computer code for incorporating repair viral code in the payload module that acts to repair any damage in the infected client device caused by the selected virus.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the anti-virus includes an inoculation viral code component.

8. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 4 wherein the anti-virus includes an inoculation viral code component.